

Abbreviated Minutes: Complete Set of Minutes Are on File in The Clerk's Office



**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
December 7-8, 2020**

Attendees:

Jon Weber, Commissioner (Chairman)
Todd Smith, Commissioner (joined telephonically)
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner
Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Kim Muir, County Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Clerk Kim Muir

ACTION ITEMS

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Public Comment:

Kirsten Ruebush discussed the proposed changes to the short plat process. The original notice of public hearing didn't give detail regarding the changes being proposed and she feels there should have been a summary of what was going to be talked about. There were some changes proposed at the October 8, 2020 hearing that had to do with definitions. The hearing lasted 3 nights and the last night they were given different subdivision changes. What was given at the first public hearing changed substantially, but regardless, they voted and it is a substantial change. Large scale developments went from 3 lots to 30. Kirsten would like the inconsistencies in the code fixed. Kirsten asks that Commissioners deny this change. The more restrictive part of the code state 3 homes before a development become a subdivision and we are going up to 8 without a public hearing. There should be a citizen meeting before you have a public hearing so there can be discussion and input. The P&Z commission didn't fully discuss the issue. Commissioner Smith said he did not receive the information from P&Z on this short plat until late Friday and hasn't had time to review therefore, isn't prepared to decide today. This matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Sugar Salem High School won the State Championship for the third year in a row. Commissioner Mendenhall would like to recognize them for this accomplishment and will prepare a letter for signature by the Commission.

Calendar Items:

The next commission meeting will be Monday, December 21, 2020. A celebration will be held for Commissioner Weber on December 21, 2020, after Commission meeting.

Seth Grigg from IAC will be in the county tomorrow morning, December 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room to meet with elected officials.

Discussion Items:

COVID-19 discussion and update

Commissioner Mendenhall reports on the Health Department meeting last Thursday. Dr. Krell who gave a very impassioned speech which was met with some controversy. Commissioner Mendenhall said Dr.

Krell does not speak for the board. Many of his comments were personal opinions. The county is currently in good standing with the pandemic and ICU beds are available at the hospital. Deaths, apathy and fatigue have been challenging and hard on hospital staff, but we need to stay the course. Most feel that if we have common sense, even though we have fringe groups on both sides, we can't get off in the weeds or no one wins. The county reiterated that it gives no recognition to either side of extremists.

Courthouse birthday celebration

Preparations are going forward for the celebration. Signs are being made and tour guides for school kids and citizens are being arranged.

Contracts/Documents:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to sign and approve the FY 2020 Indigent Defense Financial Assistance grant expense report. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to sign and approve the Mill Creek Subdivision road. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters:

The Commission meeting minutes of November 23, 2020, will be approved and signed at the December 21, 2020 meeting.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The General Fund total was \$194,052.85. The grand total of claims was \$1,260,558.11. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to sign and approve the Certificates of Residency for Paige Hulse, Kaylee Ziegler, Alydia Grover, Jade Parkinson, Britney Jones and Cami Thompson. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Personnel Actions :

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the personnel actions. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Rick Miller, ECIPDA, Discuss next steps and Review and sign: Professional Services Contract. The county will be receiving a letter awarding the grant. ECIPDA will be handling the reporting of financial management. Environmental clearance will have to be completed also. This would be finalized in about 6 months. Rick and ECIPDA were thanked for applying and managing the grant which will purchase a new ambulance and medical equipment for the county.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to sign and approve the Professional Services Contract with ECIPDA. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Weber made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b) employee matters with the Prosecutor's Office, (d) exempt records, Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk and (f) to discuss legal matters with the county's attorney. Commissioner Mendenhall

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Weber – yes, Commissioner Smith – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall - yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Weber returned the County Commission meeting to open session at 10:10 a.m.

Paul Sorensen, Finalize Commissioner Room camera system:

Paul reported that Bradley is requesting consideration of placing a TV in the conference room in the Administration Building for the P&Z Commission. Paul gave an estimate of approximately \$27,202.75 for 6 TV's and the technology in the Commission Room to run them, plus a TV and camera in the Administration Building. An option of only 4 TV's in the Commission room was discussed. Commissioners determined to only do 4 televisions in the Commissioner room.

Evan/Jared, Discuss the purchase of a lift:

Evan was present and Jared joined telephonically. Jared said with construction the way it is, every time he has tried to rent a lift it has been tough and costs are high. Evan is renting lifts more and more often and many of his things at the fairgrounds are up high. He could store the lift in the pig barn during the year. They have located a used lift and would like permission to purchase. They have talked with dealers and others regarding costs and estimates. The Commissioners feel it would be a nice piece of equipment to have in the county fleet. Jared and Evan would split the cost from departmental budgets. Safety issues would be much better with the lift rather than using ladders. Roof repairs need to be made, as well as lighting at the fairgrounds that will require a lift.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to sign and approve the purchase of a lift of approximately \$28,000 from Mosquito capital and Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Shawn Boice, Tax requests:

Ingrid Blomquist--she has qualified since 2009 and there was a clerical error for the circuit breaker. Her application can't be found by the State. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to sign and approve the Circuit breaker/tax cancellation for Ingrid Blomquist in the amount of \$583.02. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Shawn reports there have been several house fires recently and there is an application for this process. Shawn will have those affected bring the applications to the commissioners for approval. The taxes will be prorated.

Matthew and Melanie Yoose--a sliver of land was over looked and the deed wasn't submitted in time. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to sign and approve the Property tax cancellation for Matthew and Melanie Yoose in the amount of \$920.29. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to move Neil Erickson's request to meet with Commissions 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

Neil Erickson, DMV discussion:

Neil read a letter he had written stating getting a vehicle license and it has been a very strenuous situation. Mandates from the state are what they are, but the new system is very frustrating. As Neil was waiting his turn he witnessed that many couldn't process what they are there for he saw community members wait in lines only to find out more information was needed and they would have to return to wait in line

again. He suggested the Commissioners establish someone to greet and review with citizens as they come in the door what they are there for and scan the information needed and let them know if they have the paperwork to do what the person was need of or if they would need to return. He spent 9 hours and 3 different trips to get what he needed and was very frustrated. Neil doesn't think we need to hire someone, as all three of them are de-escalating the situation and if we just had one letting people know if they had what was need, the other two could be processing, it would stop some of the frustration. There was discussion between Neil and Shawn regarding ways to improve the situation. The Commissioners state that something needs to change to help the public. Improving the online instructions was suggested. Shawn has been down with COVID and still fielded complaint phone calls every day. Commissioners suggested during busy times would it help to have someone greet the public to look over what they have and if further information was needed before their transaction can be completed.

Shawn discussed options. He needs to move his part time employee to full time. He would like to move to appointment only status Wednesday thru Friday, but be open to the public Monday and Tuesday. Commissioners will work with him to make things better.

Sam Butikofer, City of Rexburg Agreement:

Commissioners asked questions regarding the morgue that has been ordered to be housed at the City. A notice was signed by the Mayor on County letterhead and there were questions. Also, maintenance of the morgue was discussed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to sign and approve the agreement with the City of Rexburg for the two morgue system. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Darby Pozenel, Solid Waste, Discussion regarding Edge Waste account receivable:

Darby is asking what the commissioners would like done with the account receivable balance that is getting higher for Edge Waste. There has been very little paid in the past. Darby comments they have been good to work with in the past, but will no longer return her calls. Our process needs to be changed to not let invoices get this far out of hand. We need to begin cutting companies off when there is nonpayment of this account for 60 – 90 days. Darby was given the directive that this business will be cut off beginning tomorrow until you provide a repayment plan and then it will be cash in full. Interest will begin January 1, 2021. No one will be allowed to dump waste at the County who is more than 60 days past due.

Bradley Petersen, Planning and Zoning, Findings and Facts regarding ordinance #431 amending the administrative process for short plats:

Melissa, and Sharon Oakey were present for this discussion.

Bradley states the P&Z Commission held meetings to come up with the wording for the ordinance and then held the public hearing. The issue was announced, work meetings were held and discussed at length. The hearing was tabled three times. Bradley said members of the public came in mid-stream that had missed most of the discussion for the past year and then didn't understand it. The P&Z Commission is suggesting a change that as long as there are 8 lots or less approval can be given for a short plat. It is currently 3 lots, but is very restrictive. If there are 5 lots or more is having to be platted. Density bonuses were discussed. The Commissioners feel the key to the short plat issue is to have it come to a public meeting. No right of way can be approved except by the approval of the Commissioners.

We are adding a short plat process to change medium and large-scale development in addition to adding to the short plat. With the approval, it allows developer to focus on planning, but allows them to do part of the development and then save cash to give them more options. Short plats will still come to the commissioners. Commissioners are concerned with the final process to come to the commissioners, promises have been made and it puts commissioners in an uncomfortable spot. If we take P&Z out of it, commissioners need to be kept in the loop. Where there is no public hearing involved, keeping the Commissioners in the loop is vital. The Commissioners will always have the final approval. There was one person opposing on the P&Z commission. Keeping the divisional rights up to date is critical for Planning and Zoning. The board wants to simplify the process for the citizens in the county, not just for those in the room. Commissioners ask where the number 8 come from for maximum short platting. Bradley answers he felt it is manageable. Sharon Oakey stated you do what is best for your county. You can do up to 4 if short platting.

The Board took this very seriously. Sharon doesn't like to table things, but the whole board considered it. The Commissioners would like more time to read through the proposed short plat ordinance. It will be back on the agenda December 21, 2020.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to table this discussion and reopen on December 21, 2020. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Regarding P & Z Commission:

Bradley noted State statute for number of board members on the P&Z Commission. They have discussed rotating board members through and limiting to two three-year terms to involve more people. There are currently 12 members, but this number makes it difficult to get together and have a discussion. They are proposing 9 members on the Board. There are many upcoming discussions and feel a more concise group to work with would be more efficient. Usually they don't have close to 12. Some don't come, they feel, because there are so many on the board, they wouldn't be missed. Sharon thinks professionals should be on the board. Commissioners would have to hold a hearing and Bradley would present what the new ordinance would say. The chair is the tiebreaker. Troy suggested keeping an odd number.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Minutes:

Seth Grigg, IAC Director, Training for Elected Officials.

Seth Grigg, Director at IAC trained elected officials. Topics were: Duties of each elected office, executive session rules, ethics, open meeting law, public records, etc.

There being no further business Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Approved:

Jon O. Weber, Commission Chairman
Todd Smith, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner

Attest: Kim Muir, Clerk